

Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee - March 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Mitchell who led the committee with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair William Mitchell, County Board Supervisors Kathleen Cummings, Keith Harenda (arrived at 9:53 a.m.), Mareth Kipp, David Swan, Jean Tortomasi; **Absent:** Carl Seitz

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Legis.Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Shirlee Bedard of Human Services, Human Services Supervisor Bill Graham, Sheriff Captain Meg Schnabl, Emergency Preparedness Director Richard Tuma, Senior Financial Analyst Lindsay Johnson

Approve Minutes of February 17, 2006

Motion: Swan moved, second by Cummings, to approve the minutes of 2/17/06. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Executive Committee Report by Bill Mitchell for Meeting of February 20, 2006

Mitchell reviewed items that were discussed and/or considered at the last meeting on Monday, February 20. He stated there was a lot of discussion on the two ordinances dealing with downsizing the county board.

Reports by Committee Member Liaisons

Cummings said that the next meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is scheduled for March 21, 2006.

Future Agenda Items by Committee Members

Sheriff Trawicki will be appearing at the next meeting to give a status update on the Metro Drug Unit.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2006.

Presentation on the Community Transition Program

Bedard, Graham and Schnabl were present. A handout was distributed with information on the "Breakdown of Cases from 1/1/05 to 12/31/05 and Jail Transition Services from January 2001 to December 2005. Bedard reviewed the handout and answered questions from the committee. She stated the program started in 2001 with the goal being to identify inmates and get them set up with services in order to reduce recidivism in the jail. Initially she would see the same people 5 times per week but she doesn't do that now. She went from 120 contacts to 400 so it would be impossible. On Thursdays though she still has time set aside for walk-ins. Also, now there is a part-time person who works 20 hours per week in the jail. Referrals are received from jail classification, jail mental health, inmate communication forms, family, Department of Community Corrections, and the Salvation Army to name a few.

Bedard said many times people are not compliant because they have other things going on such as an undiagnosed mental health disorder or brain trauma so once this is identified she can help them get the right services. Tortomasi asked if there are more males or females. Bedard said the ratio is 80% / 20%, males to females.

Kipp indicated that when all avenues have been explored to help an individual is when Shirlee steps in. Schnabl said Bedard offers a stability to prisoners who are released from the jail. Unfortunately,

many end up returning. There are so many that do not belong in the jail. Kipp asked Graham how Shirlee's program affected his department. Graham said one thing is it has saved a lot of money in treatment for individuals previously who might have been sent to Winnebago. It demonstrates that there is worth in programs. Also, she has implemented a special referral form that the probation officer has to fill out.

Presentation on the Promotion of the Dispatch Center to Non-Participating Communities

Tuma said what they're going to do at the City of Waukesha meeting is present the facts. What is interesting is last month they dispatched police priority calls in 92 seconds, fire in 97 seconds, and EMS in 105 seconds. They gather national statistics and standards and compare them to Waukesha. In some cases they exceed national figures. Every 911 call is different. There can be language problems, static, disconnections on cell phones, etc. Sometimes saying you have to do something in a particular timeframe is not realistic. Tuma said they are up to staff and did get the Dispatch Operations Commission to approve a modification to the way they are dispatching which he went on to explain.

Mitchell asked where are you with the APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) study? Tuma said they are expecting it next week.

He said the number of inquiries (complaints) from departments is down from last month with only 13 received. The month before there were 31, the month before that there were 41, and about this time last year there were 125 to 130.

To Cummings' question regarding the City of Waukesha joining, Tuma said he would prefer not to take any additional agencies this year because he still wants to work on quality and improving the workforce, as well as working with their own agencies on redefining some of the policies to have a good product. It takes a while to get a workforce and then train them. He would be open to new agencies next year, and quality will be the selling point when it is demonstrated that they are superior to others.

Swan asked what do you see in the future? Tuma said they were planning ahead when they put the initiative in to replace the mobile data terminal system with a mobile data computer system. That project will begin the end of March. Whenever they put systems in, they try to plan for the future with the technology.

Discussion on Downsizing the County Board

Mitchell reviewed what happened at the Executive Committee meeting of Monday, February 20 at which time the two ordinances were tabled in order to get more information as to other areas that will be affected by the downsizing; i.e., size and number of committees. He stated a number of the Executive Committee members expressed their opinions as to why it was brought up and some took it as a slap in the face. Mitchell said he believes that downsizing is going to happen either by the County Board or by referendum. Some questioned the timing of it with the census coming up. Most Executive Committee members are not for it just from the standpoint of why change something that is working. Waukesha County is AAA bonded and is in the top 1% of the counties in the nation.

Cummings explained some of her responsibilities as a supervisor and the committees she serves on. She stated we all have our strengths and weaknesses but all together as a whole we do a good job. What she is most concerned about is this is not about the job done but rather about politics. What is at stake here is representation and is less better? In the end it is going to cost more.

Harenda said he doesn't think this is political but about structure and what we are entrusted to do -- policy and budget. We are the legislative branch that approves what the Executive brings or vice versa. Harenda said he doesn't see having ten less people on the county board as an issue but rather streamlining. Everyone is taking this personally but to him this is about how we can make government better. Harenda said he supports 25 or 19 but thinks the Board needs to look at how it fulfills its responsibilities; he sees a lot of wasted time.

Kipp said what she would like to know is what is the logic behind downsizing the board. Saving \$100,000 a year is not the proper logic. She would like to see Charlie Sykes, Jeff Wagner and Mark Belling sitting at the end of table explaining why we need to downsize. It's wrong that there are people telling us what we should do but they're not telling us why. She isn't saying we shouldn't downsize but she doesn't like the way people are coming forward with no logic behind it. Representation in the rural areas worries her, as well as the power of the County Executive getting stronger with fewer supervisors on the board.

Mitchell said he doesn't think the board should change drastically. He wants to keep it part-time because he doesn't want it to be a political thing. Harenda agreed. Mitchell said if you get too small though you worry about oversight. He thinks 9 is too small. He likes having people on the board who have to work for a living because that is a perspective that is important. Another concern of his is the towns having representation.

Swan said he wants the board to be part-time. Regarding committee meetings, if it's combining two committees and making the total 5 instead of 7 then you deal with the quorum issue. He doesn't like a 5 member committee because 3 would be a quorum which means 2 would be a walking quorum and therefore not able to talk about issues. When you get down to less numbers, is that going to be less of an over-sight? What is driving this -- people wanting less government and a secure courthouse, less taxes? Swan hears from his constituents that they're for downsizing but not interested in less representation. Well, it doesn't work that way. Swan said he is proud of what Waukesha County has done.

Tortomasi said she can see going to 25 supervisors. Going down more than 25, she would have a real concern with representation and also the budget. She stated we should be part-time, but with 9 it could not be part-time. Mitchell thanked everyone for their input on this issue.

Legislative Update

Krahn distributed his report (as of 3/03/06) of legislation pertaining to the committee. The items on the report that are bolded show where there has been some activity. Krahn covered the following bills, which are all detailed in his report: AB 152, AB 680, and AB 1038 (SB625).

Motion to adjourn: Harenda moved, second by Cummings, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mareth K. Kipp
Secretary

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